

REMARKS

This case has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated 6 December 2001, wherein claims 14 and 36 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) on Wang, US Patent No. 5,814,915; and claims 15-20 and 37-40 were objected to. Claim 14 has been amended. Claims 14-20 and 36-40 remain pending in this application. Reconsideration in light of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Administrative Matter

Applicants note that the Office Action Summary sheet makes no reference to Applicants' Information Disclosure Statement that was submitted with the application filing papers. Applicants request that the Examiner consider Applicants' information disclosure statement.

Claims 14 and 36

Claims 14 was amended to correct a minor typing error on lines 4-5.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 14 and 36 under 35 USC 103(a) over Wang. More specifically, Applicants respectfully submit that the applied reference does not teach, suggest, or disclose the claim 14 or 36 recitations of:

14. An assembly for transferring current, the assembly comprising:
at least one electrically conductive slip ring;

a plurality of electrically conductive brushes for supplying current to the at least one slip ring, each of the electrically conductive brushes being coupled through an electrical connection to a respective one of the electrically conductive brushes through a common electrical interface;

a plurality of inductors, each situated on a respective one of the electrical connections.

36. A method for fabricating an assembly for transferring current, the method comprising:

coupling a plurality of electrically conductive brushes for supplying current to at least one electrically conductive slip ring through a plurality of respective electrical connections to adjacent ones of the electrically conductive brushes through a common electrical interface;

coupling at least one electrically conductive lead to the common electrical interface;

situating a plurality of inductors, each on a respective one of the electrical connections.

As stated by the Examiner, Wang does not disclose the limitations of the brushes in relation to a slip ring. Wang appears to relate to "leaf" type brushes (column 1, lines 54-60) for miniature rotors (background) in contrast to slip ring embodiments which are used in high power machine contexts. As seen in Wang FIG. 3 and described in column 2, line 49-54, the substrates are held in a curve to urge sliding contact with the commutator. The brush 21 is situated between two holders 30 (column 3, lines 66-67) with the holders being mounted in an end cap of the rotor.

For a prima facie case of obviousness, the Examiner must set forth the differences in the claim over the applied references, set forth the proposed modification of the reference which would be necessary to arrive at the claimed subject matter, and explain why the proposed modification would be obvious.

Applicants interpret the Office Action as stating that the proposed modification is to supply current through the electrically conductive brushes 21 of Wang to a slip ring in the specific manner recited in Applicants' claims. However, Applicants cannot determine what is being asserted as the motivation. The Office Action States:

However, those skilled in the art would realize that in the brush-type electrical machine, electrically conductive brushes connected to slip rings for supplying current to the slip rings are well known in the art. Slip ring is an essential part of the current collecting structure of the brush-type electrical machine.

Applicants respectfully submit that slip rings are not an essential part of brush-type electrical machines. Brushes can be used with slip rings as is typically the case for large motors or generator type synchronous machines. Alternatively, brushes can be used with commutators as is typically the case for small DC motors. The two embodiments are not interchangeable, and Applicants traverse any implication that a modification to a slip ring embodiment would automatically be obvious with respect to a commutator embodiment.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 14 and 36 define allowable subject matter over the applied art. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested, and allowance of the claims is respectfully solicited.

Claims 15-20 and 37-40

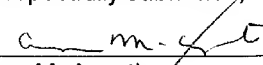
Claims 15-20 and 37-40 were objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims. The Examiner indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 15-20 depend from claim 14 and claims 37-40 depend from claim 36. For the reasons discussed above, Applicants believe claims 14 and 36 are patentable. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 15-20 and 37-40 are patentable in their present condition.

Summary

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is needed to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,


Ann M. Agosti
Reg. No. 37,372

General Electric Company
Building K1, Room 3A66
Schenectady, New York 12301
22 Oct 2002
Telephone: (518) 387-7713